Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 AEC-11 ACDA-19 T-03 OMB-01 IO-13 OIC-04

CIAE-00 PM-09 INR-09 L-03 NEA-10 NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01

PRS-01 GAC-01 SAL-01 MBFR-03 SAJ-01 DODE-00 H-02

NSC-10 SS-14 RSR-01 /146 W

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FM AMEMBASSY WARSAW

TO AMEMBASSY VIENNA

INFO AMEMBASSY HELSKINKI

USIA WASHDC

USMISSION NATO

SECSTATE WASHDC 2941

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

USMISSION BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

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USIS VIENNA FOR MBFR BURNETT

USIS NATO FOR HAMILTON

E. O. 11652: N/ A TAGS: PARM, PL

SUBJECT: POLAND AND MBFR

1. SUMMARY: A POLISH JOURNALIST WRITING IN THE WEEKLY OF THE POLISH VETERAN'S ORGANIZATION ZBOWID HAS SAID THAT THE POLISH GOVERNMENT REJECTS THE PRINCIPLE OF ASYMMETRY BETWEEN EAST AND WEST IN EUROPEAN ARMS REDUCTION, AND FAVORS THE IDEA OF DISCUSSING MBFR ISSUES ON LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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A "PRIORITY" BASIS, CONSIDERING FIRST THE "HEART OF EUROPE" (WITH APPROPRIATE PARTICIPATION) AND MOVING ON TO PROBLEMS OF "OTHER PARTS OF EUROPE" (WITH PARTICIPATION PRESUMABLY SOMEWHAT BROADENED). MEANWHILE, MASS CIRCULATION ZYCIE WARSZAWY HAS ATTRIBUTED SLOW PROGRESS IN VIENNA TO SPLITS WITHIN THE NATO CAMP. END SUMMARY.

2. A NEW, BUT PERHAPS NOT AUTHORITIVE, INTERPRETATION OF THE POLISH POSITION TOWARD MBFR HAS BEEN FLOATED IN THE MARCH 10 EDITION OF THE RELATIVELY LITTLE KNOWN WEEKLY OF THE POLISH VETERNAN'S ORGANIZATION ZBOWID, ZA WOLNOSC LUD. UNDER THE TITLE, "DISARMAMENT, HOW DO WE SEE IT?", AUTHOR IGNACY KRASICKI GIVES WHAT HE FORTHRIGHTLY CLAIMS IS THE "POLISH POSITION" ON MBFR ISSUES. THE ARTICLE CONTAINS TWO POINTS OF PARTICULAR NOTE:

A. KRASICKI CLAIMS THAT POLIAHD IS OPPOSED TO ANY
" ASYMMETRY" IN EUROPEAN ARMS REDUCTIONS, A POSITION WHICH
HE SAYS IS " DEMANDED BY REALISM AND RESPECT FOR THE
PRINCIPLES OF JUSTICE."

B. PROCEEDING FROM THE ASSUMPTION THAT ALL AGREE THAT DISARMAMENT EVENTUALLY SHOULD INVOLVE THE WHOLE OF EUROPE, KRASICKI SAYS THAT POLAND INITIALLY FAVORS THE ESTABLISH-MENT OF CERTAIN " PRIORITIES." THE KEY PASSAGES WHICH ELABORATE ON THIS POINT ARE INFORMALLY TRANSLATED BELOW: " LESSENING THE DEGREE OF TENSION BEWTEEN THE TWO COLOSSAL THERMONUCLEAR POTENTIALS IN THE HEART OF EUROPE WILL ITSLEF LEAD TO A THINNING OF ARMS IN OTHER REGIONS OF OUR CONTINENT. THIS OBVIOUSLY DOES NOT MEAN THAT POLAND WISHES TO ELIMINATE ANYONE FROM THE VIENNA MEETING. THE ISSUE HERE IS RATHER ONE OF PRIORITY OF SUBSTANTIVE PROBLEMS AND NOT ONE OF DISTINGUISHING IN A HIERARCHICAL WAY BETWEEN DELEGATIONS TAKING PART IN THE SOLUCTION OF THE PROBLEM." (COMMENT: THIS APPORACH SEEMS TO AMOUNT TO A DIVISION OF MBFR INTO STAGES, CONSIDERING FIRST THE "HEART" OF EUROPE, WITH PARTICIPATION SOMEWHAT LIMITED, AND THEN WIDENING PARTICIPATION TO TAKE UP THE PROBLEMS OF "OTHER AREAS" OF THE CONTINENT. ALTHOUGH APPARENTLY A NEW ELEMENT IN THE PUBLIC DISCUSSION OF MBFR IN POLAND, THIS SUGGESTION MUST BE READ IN LIGHT OF THE FACT THAT THE ZBOWID WEEKLY IS NOT AN INFLUENTIAL ORGAN NOR KRASICKI A MAJOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMENTATOR. GIVEN THESE FACTS. HOWEVER, WE SHOULD ALSO NOTE THAT THE AUTHOR ENDS BY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CLAIMING THAT " THIS IS THE POLISH POINT OF VIEW. THIS

IS THE POSITION OF THE GOVERNMENT AND NATION..." , WORDS WHICH ARE NOT USED LIGHTLY HERE.)

3. ALSO ON THE MBFR FORNT, ZYCIE WARSZAWY MARCH 8 CARRIED A PAP DISPATCH FROM VIENNA REFERRING TO A "REPORT FROM BURSSLES" THAT THERE ARE SPLITS WITHIN NATO AND STATING THAT NO ESTIMATE IS NOW POSSIBLE OF HOW LING IT WILL TAKE THE NATO NATIONS TO REACH AN AGREED POSITION. DAVIES

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